

From: [Frances O'Brien](#)
To: [PAEC](#)
Subject: Re: Questions on notice and further information - Parliamentary Inquiry into Fraud and Corruption Control in Local Government | Monitors and Commissioners
Date: Thursday, 24 April 2025 7:59:26 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Question 1

My experience with monitors is that they have been outstandingly good at their jobs of guidance and advice. I don't have any doubt it's now recognized by councillors and members of the public such appointments are sure signs of change. And accordingly such appointments act to modify behaviour.

The corporatisation of Local government is still widely misunderstood by Councillors. Interference in e.g. Environmental and planning enforcement are classic examples. Corruption? Maybe, certainly abuse of power. The responsibility for the CEOs contract and the budget preparation and monitoring appear to me to be the last things they really want to do. They appear to not understand how to approach issues by ensuring policies are implemented and where necessary reviewing and amending.

Question 2

My personal experience is that all communities are relieved and pleased upon hearing of the appointment of a commission. They actively involve themselves in communicating with the Commissions. In their approach and attitude they undoubtedly trust that things will change.

We have observed resignations councillors immediately upon our appointment. (this doesn't shield them from questioning).

Commissions also release internal whistleblowers under the protection of confidential enquiry. This has occurred in relation to major issues in all the commissions I have sat on.

Yours Frances OBrien KC

Sent from my iPhone